

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1951

Mr. FOOTER, of Mississippi. I expressly disclaimed it.

Mr. BUTLER. The charge was that they had not brought it up; and he said that he would call attention to it if it came under the consideration of the Senate with the energy which the occasion, in the opinion of the gentleman, and some of his special friends, called for. He made an explanation in reference to the bill once before. It was at the time of the discussion of the fugitive-slave bill of yesterday, and I made my speech upon it as the chairman of the committee; and my friend from Virginia [Mr. MASON] had also made a speech upon it, when the late senator from New Hampshire [Mr. DAYTON], leaving the floor, took part in the discussion. He alluded to the bill coming from Kentucky, not now in his seat, [Mr. CLAY.] An opportunity of bringing before the Senate his measures of compromise. No objection was then made to letting the bill drop. But after the adjournment, the conduct of the gentleman matured and disposed of the matter. We suppose the suggestion was made to bring up the fugitive-slave bill as a separate measure. Perhaps it was intended to make it a test in advance. Some of us thought so. But we have seen no signs of it. The gentleman declined to yield readily to the suggestions of those in whose course of policy we did not exactly agree, or there may have been a fair difference of opinion as to the mode of using the fugitive-slave bill. But when we come to the question of the fugitive-slave law, the honorable gentleman, and with the understanding that his northern friends and allies would support it, how many of them voted for it? The two gentlemen from Iowa [Messrs. DONOFR and JONES] voted against it. The gentleman from Virginia, no longer a member of this body, [Mr. STRICKLAND] voted for the bill. The honorable gentleman from New York [Mr. DICKINSON] no longer here, would have voted for it. And having paired off with his colleague, he has never since been heard of. There were but three northern senators who voted for it. Let the country understand now, for the first time, if it never has been understood before, why honorable gentlemen from the North have compromised, did not vote on this bill, either for or against it. When the compromise measures have swum to the shore, there are some willing to stretch out the hand of aid, but there are others who will not do so. They were waiting for something like the

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Mr. BUTLER. Then the senator admits that, while he wishes to make the Compromise immutable, he is perfectly willing to change it when it suits him. That is a "finality of a totality."

Mr. FOOTE. I should vote for that proposition in the same way that I should vote for a proposition to alter the boundary lines of any other State in the Union at her request. I would not vote for that sooner than a proposition to divide Texas or New York, or those States which desire to have their territory divided without their limit. While I hold the Compromise to be a definitive settlement, I do

Mr. BUTLER. I did not say that.
Mr. FOOTER. What did the gentleman say?
Mr. BUTLER. I said that the gentleman frequently agreed with, and was a great admirer of, Mr. Calhoun.
Mr. FOOTER, (in his seat.) On some questions I did agree with him, but on most I did not.
THE PRESIDENT. The conversation must not go on in that way. The senator is always at liberty to make an explanation, with the consent of the gentleman having the floor, but he is not at liberty to sit in his chair to make comments while the speaker is going on.

at the questions now in debate under the armistice! By the sword. The gentleman might have found it a difficult task to have found enough constables to hang the traitors. He would have been consumed in his own tale if he had made a demonstration against South Carolina. The issue would have been far above party strife or rhetorical display.

I cannot go further into this subject, except to express my opinion that injustice has been done to those of South Carolina who have attempted to conform to the suggestions of Mississippi, not altogether under the counsels of

Mr. President, I undertake to say to the Senate that the fugitive-slave law has been executed, and will hereafter be faithfully executed, in the good old Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that if any man is convicted of riot or any other offense in resisting it, the distinguished democratic governor elect—Col. Bigler—will not grant a pardon, certainly not sooner than to any other offender. The single instance, or rather exception, to which the gentleman has referred, proves nothing against the other facts of the case. He might as well have cited any other case,

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